

*Scoil Mhuire na nGrást,
Béal Guala,
Co. Chorcaí.*



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

SUMMER BREAK

The school will close for the Summer break on **Thursday, 22 June at 12 noon**. Should you have a child in Junior or Senior Infants who is to depart school in the company of an older sibling as a 'Walker' or 'Bus', arrangements will be made by the relevant staff for these pupils to join their older siblings. The usual school bus provision will operate at this earlier time.

The school will re-open after the Summer break on **Wednesday, 30 August 2023**.

SCIATH NA SCOL SUCCESS

Congratulations to our Sciath na Scol 2023 Camogie Final Champions on a super Division 2 win against a strong Berrings side in Páirc Uí Chaoimh recently. Well done to every player who played with great teamwork and skill right until the final whistle. Thank you to all our wonderful supporters, as always, who came to cheer along this wonderful team!

Of course, behind such success lies the interest, commitment, dedication and efforts of the coaches and mentors involved. In this regard, congratulations and thank you to Ms C Murphy, Ms O' Donovan, Ms O' Callaghan, Mr Lane and Mr Hayes-Curtin. The school also wishes to acknowledge the ongoing support provided by our local GAA clubs (Belgooly, Ballymartle, Sliabh Rua & Sliabh Rua Camogie). Our GAA trainer's, Donnacha Desmond, coaching was very much appreciated.

SCIATH NA SCOL CARRIGDHOUN BLITZES

Well done to the boys and girls in 6th class who recently took part in the South East Sciath na Scol Football blitzes. Both teams played really well. We wish our 6th class all the best for the future and we look forward to seeing them line out on the GAA pitch for their secondary schools. Go n-éirí an bóthar libh!

CYCLE TO SCHOOL EVENT (MAY 2023)

As part of *National Bike Week 2023 (13th to 21st May)*, a 'Cycle to School' event on Wednesday 17 May, saw many of the pupils, staff and parents donning high vis wear and cycling to school using the public access routes. It was a beautiful sunny morning and Belgooly looked its best! *Cork County Council* drone footage of the event is available to view on the website ('Parents' tab \rightleftarrows 'Safe Routes to School'). Leading up to the event, the pupils availed of a *Cork County Council* 'Cycle Safety Webinar' and a visit from 'Bike Wizards' who shared some bike maintenance and safety tips.

For pupils, being able to access and avail of their local natural environment is pivotal to the promotion of an active lifestyle, their general wellbeing and the provision of broader educational opportunities. As a recognised *Active School*, travel to our local Belgooly GAA pitch for hurling, football and athletics training has ensured sporting prowess (see above) in the various sporting fixtures and events the school has participated in during the past school year. In addition, in its efforts to secure its sixth *An Taisce Green Flag* (Biodiversity), the school has so many natural and environmental learning opportunities on its doorstep to assist with availing of 'The Outdoor Classroom' (e.g. local amenities such as the Belgooly Walkway, the river and the village). Developing citizenship, living in my community & environmental care all form part of the pupils' *Social Personal & Health Education programme (SPHE)*.

/Over.....

In this regard, with the support of the local *Belgooly Tidy Villages*, the senior class pupils were active participants in the recent *An Taisce Spring Clean Week 2023* and gathered litter along the approach roads to the school. The school community is very grateful to the many local, regional and national individuals, groups and organisations who continue to support the school's endeavours in these important areas for the pupils.

SPORTS FOR ALL DAY 2023

Next week is our final week of school year 2022/2023 and, as usual, this time of year involves lots of exercise and fun activities as part of the school's '*Sports For All Week*'. '*Sports for All Day*' will be held on Monday, 19 June, weather permitting. Each class will be participating. Children need only bring their pencil case, a snack, lunch and plenty to drink on the day. Sun-cream application is advisable.

The *Parents' Association* have kindly organised a complimentary ice-cream for each child on the day.

BUDDING GARDENERS & LE PETIT DÉJEUNER FRANCAIS (FIFTH CLASS)

With great excitement in Mrs. Clancy's 5th class, the 'Budding Gardeners' competition entry has been sent to Woodies. Flowers are blooming in a repurposed & painted pallet. These are surrounded by wigwams of peas, rows of lettuces and bunches of strawberries. The creative genes flourished in the class so now the garden is also decorated with crochet fences, spider knitting, painted stones, birdfeeders and woven willow fences.

Thanks to all the many 'Garden Angels' who helped us out. Bravo to all the pupils whose enthusiasm, creativity & wonderful ideas brought their initial drawing plans to fruition! (*see photo attached*)

Following an introduction to French language classes, fifth class pupils enjoyed a 'petit déjeuner français' in class. Chocolat chaud, baguette et croissant were all enjoyed, while practising some new phrases. Bravo a tous les enfants!

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 2022/2023

The Parents' Association & Friends of the Parents' Association are to be commended for their committed and resourceful efforts which have enhanced school life for all throughout this challenging past year in terms of their educational and social contributions: Halloween decorations, Santa's Grotto & visit 2022, School Calendar 2023, subsidies towards Literacy Resources, the very successful 'Bingo Evening', preparation for *Free Schoolbook Scheme 2023/2024*, a drum set for the Sensory Garden, and subsidising hoodies for our departing sixth class pupils, as well as a take-away treat for their farewell celebration. Of course, this would not have been feasible without the support the PA has received throughout the year from school families, the wider community and the local business community. The Parents' Association are most appreciative of such help and assistance. We have 241 school families and your support in helping the Parents' Association going forward in 2023/2024 in any way would be most welcome.

Many parents continue to advocate most generously on the school's behalf in terms of potentially beneficial educational related activities, resources, projects or initiatives (e.g. website, excursion venues, various expertise). Such opportunities complement and continue to add to the pupils' learning and general school experience. Should you wish to bring such a possibility to our attention for consideration, please feel free to contact the school.

CLASSROOM LIBRARIES

Thank you to the Parents' Association for their kind contribution to assist with restocking our class libraries. Pupils in the middle and senior classes have enjoyed a 'Book Buffet', where they sampled the new books and picked out a selection of books they would like to read for 'Starters', 'Mains' & 'Dessert'. Books for the junior classes will be with us before the summer holidays. Pictures of the 'Book Buffet' are on the school website. These new literacy resources are a welcome addition to our class libraries and are helping to create a school community of life-long readers.

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES FOR PRIMARY & POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Board of Management recently reviewed the school's Child Safeguarding measures. The related notification and Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment are available to view on the school's website.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our visitor numbers to our school website, which features a vast range of activities and events, continue to rise. In addition, it includes school information and educational related links you may find useful e.g. parents' section, previous Home/School notes 2022/2023, Requisites List 2023/2024, School Calendar 2023/2024.... We would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs. Finn, Assistant Principal, who plays a pivotal role in organising the school website during the year.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As families may be making preparations for the next school year, we wish to remind you of the following school requirements regarding the school uniform. The uniform consists of wine jumper/cardigan with school crest, grey trousers/pinafore/skirt, wine tie, blue shirt and regular school shoes. Pupils wear tracksuits for sporting and PE related activities, class teachers will inform you of these days in September. A white polo shirt is to be worn under tracksuit and pupils may wear runners with tracksuit.

During the months of May, June & September, in addition to the main school uniform or the school tracksuit on designated days (as above), pupils may also wear a white polo t-shirt, an up-cycled short version of the existing school tracksuit or wine-coloured shorts (the latter being available from the school's uniform supplier – *Cahill's Clothing Carrigaline*). **To assist with returning lost uniform items, please label clothing.**

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (2023/2024)

Parents are requested to inform the Board, through the Principal, of any allergies or any *Specific Requirements* of their child. The Board will then inform all parents of a food allergy within the school. Without identifying any individual pupils, the teachers will make their pupils aware of food allergies. This, the Board hopes will provide a safe environment and invites parents, staff, pupils and school visitors for their co-operation.

Because the consequences of a child having an allergic reaction can be serious, the Board assumes that the whole school community will assist in making the school as safe as is reasonably possible for each child.

Regarding School Year 2023/2024, please note we have pupils in the following sections who have particular allergies (Senior Infants, First, Second, Third, Fourth & Sixth Classes – hazel nut, peanut and cashew nut allergies) and who have been advised to avoid all foods containing same. We ask for your co-operation in this respect.

IRISH GIRL GUIDES

Kinsale Guide Unit has advised that it is reopening their waiting lists for September 2023 and onwards.

Catering for girls aged 10-14, they meet on Wednesday evenings during term time. Should you be interested in putting your daughter's name on their waiting list, you are invited to email kinsaleguidesa@gmail.com with her name, date of birth, school, and parent/guardian contact details.

END OF SCHOOL YEAR

As we approach the end of the summer term, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their combined endeavours in ensuring a successful school year. The staff, for their dedicated, caring and professional approach, the committed and resourceful efforts of the Parents' Association, the wider school community for their practical support and co-operation, the Board of Management for overseeing improvements to the school's physical environment and the pupils for their enthusiastic application to school and their excellent behaviour. We also wish our 6th class the very best of luck in their new secondary schools and we look forward to welcoming our new enrolments at the start of the next school term.

The school will close for the summer break on Thursday, 22 June and will re-open on Wednesday, 30 August. Meanwhile, wishing you and your families a pleasant, enjoyable and safe summer.

Yours faithfully,
Diarmuid Hennessy
School Principal